

Make way for The Legion of Doom



GRUNT AND GRIN

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FOR THE NATIONAL

Perhaps the most copied gimmick of the past decade is the huge muscled tag team with spiked outfits, spiked hair and face paint.

The originators were the Road Warriors. The Hawk and The Animal, with Manager Paul Ellering, first used the gimmick in 1983, and for years, they were pro wrestling's top-drawing, highest-paid and most-imitated tag team.

The Road Warriors, who spawned duos like The Powers of Pain, Demolition and Nasty Boys, will be leaving the National Wrestling Alliance later this summer to join forces with the World Wrestling Federation. And they'll probably have to give up the gimmick that made them famous.

A dispute with NWA management is forcing the Road Warriors to leave behind one of pro wrestling's most lucrative contracts (\$500,000 a year apiece and another \$275,000 for Ellering).

Ironically, the two are a very rare breed of wrestler, taking a pay cut to join the WWF. The WWF's tag-team champions, Demolition, earn an estimated \$150,000 to \$200,000 annually. The other tag-team wrestlers in the federation earn an estimated \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Because the WWF's current champion uses the ring name the Ultimate Warrior, as well as the face paint gimmick Hawk and Animal made chic, it is expected there will be some changes.

It's expected the Warriors will be called "The Legion of Doom" when they arrive in the summer.

The Hawk, 33, born Michael Hegstrand, is a 6-foot-4, 290-pound muscular monster. The Animal, 30, is even larger and stronger. Born Joe Laurinidas, the 6-foot-2, 305-pounder has a 550-pound bench

press to his credit. They were trained along with Demolition, Smash, "Ravishing" Rick Rude and Nikita Koloff, all of whom reached pro wrestling's top rungs, by Eddie Sharkey. Sharkey originally had Animal and Smash training to be one tag team, and Hawk and Rude paired up as another.

Wrestling promoter Ole Anderson, who ran the NWA's Georgia territory, decided instead to pair up Hawk and Animal. Through national exposure on WTBS, they exploded on the scene as a top attraction faster than anyone since Andre the Giant originally toured the United States in the early 1970s.

FIG: To explain Hulk

Hogan's summer hiatus from the ring, wrestling's top attraction was hit with a chair and given three "Earthquake splashes" by the 460-pound Earthquake on May 15 in LaCrosse, Wis. Hogan will return

to action for the Summer Slam '90 pay-per-view event on Aug. 27, facing Earthquake in a grudge

match. ... Newcomers to the NWA include Stan "The Larist" Hansen and powerlifting record-holder Doug Furnas, both of whom had last been wrestling in Japan. Another newcomer, The Junkyard Dog, at a slim, trim 300 pounds, first appeared May 20 at the Omni in Atlanta beating Mean Mark in 39 seconds. ... El Gigante (former Argentine national team basketball player Jorge Gonzales), who at 7-foot-6½ is the tallest pro wrestler ever, made his first appearance at the Capitol Combat pay-per-view show Saturday night. Gigante and Sting were involved in a post-

match fracas with The Four Horsemen after the Ric Flair versus Lex Luger main event. Luger had arthroscopic knee surgery on Sunday and will be out of action a few more weeks.

CAPITAL COMBAT SCORECARD

Results from the National Wrestling Alliance's Capital Combat pay-per-view wrestling card May 19 at the Washington, D.C. Armory.

KEY: No stars = Match without any redeeming social value
*Fair **Average ***Good ****Excellent *****Match of the year

1. Road Warriors and Norman def. Kevin Sullivan, Bam Bam Bigelow and Cactus Jack Manson (9:16) ***1/2
2. Mean Mark def. Johnny Ace (10:37) **1/4
3. Sampan Swat Team def. Captain Mike Rotundo and Tommy (Madwire) Rich (17:54) 1/2*
4. Loser gets head shaved match: Paul DiNero def. Theodore R. Long (11:57) No Stars
5. United States tag team title: Midnight Express def. Tom (Z-Man) Zenk and Ryan Brian Pullman to win titles (20:19) ****
6. Rock & Roll Express (Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson) def. The Fabulous Freebuds (Michael P.S. Hayes and Jimmy "Jam" Garvin) (18:55) ***1/2
7. NWA tag team title: Doom (Ron Simmons and "Hacksaw" Butch Reed) def. Rick and Scott Steiner to win titles (19:18) ****1/4
8. Cage match for NWA world title: Lex Luger def. Nature Boy Ric Flair via disqualification. Flair retains title on disqualification (17:21) ***1/2



The Legion of Doom: The Hawk and The Animal, also known as The Road Warriors, are moving their act to the World Wrestling Federation this summer.

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